

REMARKS

On an initial note, the Applicant wishes to thank the Examiner for the thorough examination and for pointing out the minor typographical errors in the specification causing discrepancies between the drawings and the specification. Applicant has amended the specification, accordingly. Applicant also wishes to thank the Examiner for pointing out the informality in the oath/declaration. Applicant submits herewith a supplemental oath/declaration including reference to the priority documents. Applicant also wishes to thank the Examiner for pointing out the informality in the abstract. The abstract has been amended, accordingly. Applicant has also amended Claims 39, 49 (and 52), and 58. Applicant submits that these minor amendments and corrections herein are made without prejudice and not to overcome prior art or to supplement the disclosure and that no new matter has been added. The Commissioner is authorized to charge any required fee or provide any refund to the deposit account of Bracewell & Giuliani LLP, Deposit Account No. 500259 (Attorney Docket No. 025656.003).

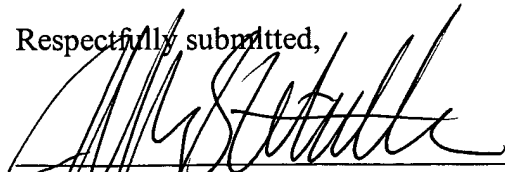
The foregoing remarks are intended to assist the Examiner in re-examining the application and the claimed embodiments of the present invention and in the course of explanation may employ shortened or more specific or variant descriptions of some of the claim language. Such descriptions are not intended to limit the scope of the claims; the actual claim language should be considered in each case. Furthermore, the remarks are not to be considered to be exhaustive of the facets of the invention that render it patentable.

CONCLUSION

In view of the remarks set forth herein, Applicant respectfully submits that the application is in condition for allowance. Accordingly, issuance of a Notice of Allowance in due course is respectfully requested.

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Respectfully submitted,



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